(c) and (d) After liberalization of the economy and introduction of new industrial policy of 1991 the role of Central Government has been transformed from direct intervention in the process of industrialization of backward areas through license controls to leaving investment decisions to the commercial perception. The initiative for industrial development of backward areas lies primarily with the State Governments. The State Governments have been operating various schemes for industrialization of their own backward areas. Government of India supplements their efforts to the extent possible.

Steps to increase India's Exports to US

3062. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US exports in India doubled over the last three years from 4 billion dollars to 7.5 billion dollars; and

(b) whether Government is taking any steps for increasing India's exports to US where there is a good market for Indian goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) During the three year period 2002-03 to 2004-05, US exports to India have increased from US$ 6.8 billion.

(b) It is a continuous endeavour of the Government to promote India's exports to the US through various trade promotion measures like working closely with the Export Promotion Councils and other apex trade organizations, participation in major trade fairs and specific trade promotion events, streamlining the information database to respond to trade enquiries in a timely and effective manner etc.

Industrial package to backward hill States

3063. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt have given an Industrial Package to Industrially backward hill States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had in January, 2003 announced that the Industries to be set up in these States up to 2013 will get the benefits under the package;

(d) whether Government have now decided to allow benefits to the Industrial units to be set up before; and

(e) if so, the reasons for this shift in policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The Government had announced New Industrial Policies and other concessions for Special Cagegory States of Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal on 14.06.2002, 23.12.2002 and 07.01.2003 respectively. Under the policies, various concessions/incentives have been provided to these States like income tax exemption, excise exemption, Central Capital Investment subsidy, Central Interest Subsidy and Central Comprehensive Insurance. The concessions under Industrial Policy for Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal issued on 07.01.2003 were originally available for 10 years from the date of commencement of commercial production. However, the Ministry of Finance, Department of revenue have curtailed this validity period up to 31.03.2007 in so far as the concession of excise exemption is concerned.

Suggestions of India and Brazil on Doha round negotiations

†3064. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India and Brazil have jointly suggested for World Trade's "Doha Round Negotiations" to be held in Manila that fifty per cent reduction in the tariff on the products of America and European countries would be considered, provided America and European countries agree to reduce tariff on agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held on this suggestion; and

(c) the reaction of America and European countries thereto and the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) India and Brazil have

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.